

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 001201

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [ELAB](#) [EAID](#) [SMIG](#) [ASEC](#) [PREF](#) [KCRM](#) [KWMN](#) [KFRD](#) [CASC](#) [NP](#) [SA](#) [PPD](#)

SUBJECT: STATE DEPT. 2004 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

-- Both Nepal's English and Nepali dailies gave prominence to the State Department's "2004 Trafficking in Persons Report." The news-stories quoting the report were published in the front page of the major dailies on June 16. On June 17, five dailies (three English and two vernacular) wrote editorials reiterating the report's articulation of the stale situation in regards to trafficking of persons in Nepal. Economic woes coupled with the Maoist insurgency and political unrest were cited as the reasons behind the sad situation of trafficking in the country.

The following are excerpts from the editorials published on June 17, 2004.

-- Inhuman trafficking: "...The report has categorically mentioned that although Nepal has been making efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of crime, instability and insurgency have prevented the government endeavors... Maoist insurgents have not only successfully created political havoc in the countryside, but they have also contributed to assisting trafficking of concerned authorities, civil society, and the people should understand the gravity of the situation and find a way out unanimously." (Centrist "The Kathmandu Post," E/D)

-- Tackling trafficking: "...Nothing substantial seems to have been done in this regard [to combat trafficking of peoples]... The report states that the Nepalese government could do more by complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and more significant efforts in this direction are necessary... The situation should be tackled through the law enforcement efforts against trafficking which has been limited because of the continuing political instability and also because of the severe lack of resources of the impoverished country as because of the Maoist insurgency activities police have been withdrawn from most rural areas." (Government-owned "The Rising Nepal," E/D)

-- No improvement: "...Trafficking in persons is one problem that Nepal has never been able to contain, leave alone eliminate... The practice has also tarnished the country's image". The government has done a good deal towards eliminating trafficking in persons, but a lot still needs to be done. The extent of human trafficking today is certainly lower than it was before the restoration of democracy in 1990... The process of reformation, meanwhile, must continue to encourage the male members, who hold sway over the future of their female progenies and siblings, to desists from illicit sexual indulgence. Their participation in the success of this campaign is crucial." (Pro-India "The Himalayan Times," E/D)

-- Pain of trafficking: "Another negative point has been added to Nepal's identity in the international community. The report published by U.S. Department of State has once again shamed and shaken the Nepali state and the civic society. The latest report is evidence to the fact that our efforts to stop trafficking have not been fruitful. It also means that we have to start our programs to stop trafficking from scratch... Our rulers have not been sensitive enough on the issue. The government did try to break the traffickers' nexus with a national program but that addressed only one aspect of the problem. We need programs that deal with root causes and other aspects of trafficking. Realization of the problem and the pain can only lead to effective programs and their implementation." (Centrist "Rajdhani," V/D)

-- Brutal crime: "... While the international community expresses its concern over the increasing sale of six-seven year olds and illiterate women, the government is not that the government is not doing much on this and the political parties, so-called shadow government; also do not raise the issue... There is a need to launch massive awareness programs, penalize the criminals and break their links. The administration should also become very active to control such criminal activities." (Centrist "Spacetime," V/D)

BOGUE